United Nations A/68/858

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 April 2014
English
Original: Russian

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 55
Questions relating to information

Letter dated 25 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning restriction of the activities of the Russian information media in Ukraine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this statement circulated as a General Assembly document under item 55 of the agenda of the current session.

(*Signed*) Petr **Iliichev**
Permanent Representative a.i. of the Russian Federation
to the United Nations

14-31577 (E) 010514 020514

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 25 April 2014 from the Permanent Representative a.i. of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation concerning restriction of the activities of the Russian information media in Ukraine

16 April 2014

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation is gravely concerned about the situation in respect of restriction of the activities of the Russian information media and instances of political censorship in Ukraine.

In the territory of Ukraine the broadcasting of Russian television channels has been suspended, the Russian-language versions of the official Internet sites of Ukrainian state bodies have been blocked, Russian journalists are being subjected to psychological and physical pressure, and the websites of Russian information media which are covering the situation in Ukraine are being hacked.

The national television and radio broadcasting council of Ukraine has proposed to the supreme administrative court of Ukraine that the programmes of Russian television channels should be deemed in violation of the laws of Ukraine and of the 1989 European Convention on Transfrontier Television. By decision of the Kiev district administrative court, the broadcasting of television channels such as *Rossiya, Pervy kanal, Rossiya-24* and *Telekompaniya NTV* has been suspended. The television *channels RTR-Planeta, Pervy kanal, Vsemirnaya set* and *NTV-Mir* have been removed from the cable television broadcasting network in Ukraine.

Cases are being reported of Russian journalists being impeded from entering the territory of Ukraine, which represents a gross violation of democratic freedoms and of the rights of Ukrainian nationals to information.

Such actions are in disregard of the provisions of such international instruments as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, of 1966, the European Convention for the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, of 1950, the Declaration on mass communication media and human rights, of 1970, and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, of 1948, pursuant to which everyone has the right to the freedom to seek, receive and impart information.

The Federation Council of the Federal Assembly of the Russian Federation believes that further violation of the rights of Russian journalists and restriction of the activities of the Russian information media in Ukraine cannot be tolerated and that the international community, and in particular the representatives of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and other international organizations concerned with issues of freedom of the information media, should finally react appropriately to these violations.

United Nations A/68/859

General Assembly

Distr.: General
30 April 2014

Original: English

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 147
Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations

Results of the revised survey to establish the standard rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/261 on the report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the report of the Secretary-General on the results of the revised survey to establish the standard rate of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries, as approved by the General Assembly in its resolution 67/261 on the report of the Senior Advisory Group on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries (A/68/813). During its consideration of the report, the Committee met with representatives of the Secretary-General who provided additional information and clarification, concluding with written responses received on 22 April 2014.

2. The report of the Secretary-General is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/261, in which the Assembly approved the conclusions and recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group, as summarized in section IV of its report on rates of reimbursement to troop-contributing countries and related issues (A/C.5/67/10, annex).

3. In approving the recommendations of the Senior Advisory Group, the General Assembly replaced the survey process approved in 2009, which was never completed. The recommendations of the Group regarding the reimbursement framework, including the revised survey methodology, are set out in paragraphs 109 to 117 of its report. The Secretary-General outlines the revised survey methodology, including information on the selection of sample countries, the questionnaire and the data collected, and provides the cost data collected through the revised survey process (A/68/813, sect. IV).

14-31662 (E) 010514

Please recycle

4. The General Assembly also approved two additional premium payments that could potentially be paid to troop- and police-contributing countries: (a) a premium for units operating without restrictions and caveats acquitting themselves well despite exceptional levels of risk ("risk" premium); and (b) a premium for a limited number of key enabling capacities. The Secretary-General provides further detail on how the premiums will be implemented from 1 July 2014, as well as proposals for financing the payment of the premiums (ibid., sect. V).

5. The actions to be taken by the General Assembly are set out in paragraph 78 of the report of the Secretary-General. The Assembly is requested, inter alia, to review the rates of reimbursement to countries contributing uniformed personnel to United Nations peacekeeping operations, to establish a dedicated fund to finance the payment of premiums and to decide on the funding and replenishment of that fund. **The Advisory Committee is of the view that the above-mentioned actions constitute policy matters to be decided by the General Assembly.**